

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12126

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IN, NP, BG, CE, PK
SUBJECT: SOVIET PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ON CURRENT INDO-
SOVIET RELATIONS

SUMMARY: THE SOVIET PRESS GAVE FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE
TO FUNCTIONS IN DELHI AND MOSCOW COMMEMORATING INDIA'S
AUGUST 15 NATIONAL DAY AND THE 1971 SIGNING OF THE INDO-
SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. IT HAS AVOIDED
COMMENTING ON INDIAN DOMESTIC ISSUES. SOVIET MFA SOURCE
CLAIMED "STATE TO STATE" RELATIONSHIP IS EXCELLENT AND BOTH
COUNTRIES ARE INTENT ON KEEPING IT THAT WAY. HOWEVER, THE
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES IF OF "FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE" AND "BOTH
COUNTRIES" WILL HAVE TO COOPERATE TO FILL THIS "GAP". IN
THIS CONNECTION HE STATED THAT INVITATIONS AT "THE HIGHEST
LEVELS" HAVE ALREADY BEEN OFFERED AND ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOVIET PRESS GAVE FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
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FUNCTIONS IN INDIA AND MOSCOW COMMEMORATING THE
ANNIVERSARIES OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE INDO-SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP TREATY. A HIGH RANKING LIST OF OFFICIALS
LED BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEPUTY PRESIDUM CHAIRMAN
MAZUROV ATTENDED THE INDIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN
MOSCOW.

2. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE BREZHNEV-KOSYGIN INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGES SENT TO PAKISTANI AND INDIAN LEADERS WAS MARKED. THE TWO SENTENCE MESSAGE TO THE PAKISTANIS CONTAINED A STOCK EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR A WIDENING OF EXISTING "FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE EIGHT PARAGRAPH MESSAGE TO INDIAN PRESIDENT REDDY AND PM DESAI:

-- EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ALREADY "FIRM FRIENDSHIP AND MULTI-SIDED, FRUITFUL COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL FURTHER WIDEN;

-- COMMENTED ON THIRTY YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS, CULMINATING IN THE 1971 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION;

-- NOTED INDIA'S "PRESTIGIOUS AND RECOGNIZED ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA" AND ITS PLACE AMONG THE "PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD STANDING FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION PROGRESS AND PEACE."

3. WHILE EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE AND THE SYMBOLIC, THE SOVIET PRESS HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED COMMENTING ON INDIAN LEADERS AND THEIR DOMESTIC PROGRAMS, AS IT DID WITH RESPECT TO MRS. GANDHI AND HER TWENTY POINT PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE 1977 INDIAN ELECTION. COVERAGE
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OF THE INDIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION IS ALSO LACKING IN THE SOVIET REPORTING ON CPI FUNCTIONS AND PRESS RELEASE IN INDIA.

4. IN AN AGUSUT 17 DISCUSSION ON INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S SOUTH ASIAN DIVISION (AND FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL, BORIS KIRNASOVSKIY, TOLD EMBOFF THAT "STATE TO STATE" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND INDIA REMAIN "EXCELLENT" AND THAT BOTH SIDES INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. THE SOVIETS, HE SAID, WILL CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM ANY INTERFERENCE IN INDIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. WHILE MOSCOW CONTINUES TO "SYMPATHIZE" WITH CPI PROGRAMS, IT ALSO INSISTS THAT THE CPI MAKE ITS OWN WAY IN INDIAN POLITICS. REFERRING TO FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S STATEMENT IN DELHI LAST APRIL DENYING THAT MOSCOW'S "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION" WITH DELHI MIGHT DAMAGE INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, HE STRESSED THAT INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS WILL REMAIN ON A PURELY BILATERAL PLANE, UNAFFECTED BY EITHER SIDE'S RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE TREND BEGUN UNDER MRS. GANDHI TO BETTER INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS

HAS PICKED UP STEAM.

5. AFTER STRESSING THE CONTINUITY IN INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS, KIRNASOVSKIY PAUSED AND THEN ADDED THAT THE "PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WAS OF "FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE" IN THE PAST. THIS IS THE ONLY "GAP" AT PRESENT, HE SAID. HE THOUGHT THAT "BOTH COUNTRIES" WILL HAVE TO COOPERATE TO FILL IT. THE PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN WITH THE GROMYKO AND (SOVIET ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF) PAVLOVSKIY POST-ELECTION VISITS TO DELHI, AND INFORMATION MINISTER ADVANI'S VISIT TO THE USSR. HE STATED THAT INVITATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN OFFERED AND ACCEPTED FOR VISITS "AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS".
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6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE JANATA FRONT GOVERNMENT, KIRNASOVSKIY SAID THAT THE LEADERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEM TO BE WORKING WELL TOGETHER AND STABILITY SEEMS ASSURED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
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